GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1734
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
MINIMUM WAGES OF OVERSEAS WORKERS
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has urged the foreign countries to incorporate minimum wages as a constituent of the job contract; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the foreign countries thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. However, the Government has decided to prescribe the minimum wage for women household service workers emigrating to the Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries. The minimum wage will be fixed by the Indian Missions concerned in the range of US $ 300-350 after taking into account the prevailing market wage in that country. It is intended to serve as a benchmark for the Indian Missions for attesting work contracts and for the Protectors of Emigrants before granting emigration clearance. This has been done for the women household service workers because they are not covered by the labour laws in the country of employment. As regards the monthly wage of other overseas workers it is a matter between the employer and the worker as set out in the employment contract arrived at by mutual agreement based on market conditions. Therefore, the Government has not prescribed a minimum wage for other sectors.